

Clerical Sexual Abuse in the

Diocese of Buffalo

Purpose & Background

This report contains the names of clergy associated with the Diocese of Buffalo who have been accused of committing sexual offenses against minors. The vast majority of the claims against these individuals have not been evaluated in a civil court. Accordingly, the allegations should be considered just allegations and should not be considered proved or substantiated in a court of law. All individuals should be considered innocent until proven guilty. In many situations, the statute of limitations has expired preventing the cases from being heard in a court of law.

It is believed that the Diocese of Buffalo does not make available to the public the full history, knowledge and context of the sexually abusive clerics. This report is an attempt to compile information already available to the public from various sources in the public media; bishopaccountability.org; and other sources that have attempted to chronicle this information for public use. This report is intended to raise awareness about the important issue of clerical sexual abuse, provide the public with vital information including assignment histories, and provide awareness of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program available to survivors. Assignment histories are approximations and were compiled from the Official Catholic Directory, bishopaccountability.org and media reports.

Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A.

Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A. pioneered the use of civil litigation to seek justice for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Through its work, Jeff Anderson & Associates, P.A. seeks to bring hope, healing, accountability and justice to survivors of child sexual abuse. The attorneys have advocated for survivor rights in New York for many decades, having filed their first lawsuit in New York on behalf of a child sex abuse survivor in approximately 1988. In addition to seeking legal accountability, the firm has supported survivors of abuse by bringing public awareness to the cause and even testified before the state legislature endorsing reforms to the statute of limitations. Recently, Attorney J. Michael Reck filed the first case alleging that a Catholic Diocese in New York was a committing a public nuisance by refusing to disclose the identity and history of its sexually abusive priests.



Jeff Anderson



J. Michael Reck

The Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program ("IRCP")

The Diocese of Buffalo has announced the creation of the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program ("IRCP"). Similar programs are already in existence in the Archdiocese of New York; Diocese of Brooklyn; and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The IRCP is a third party administered fund that will compensate some survivors of childhood sexual abuse by priests. Survivors can keep their identity fully confidential. Currently, the IRCP is available only for survivors who previously reported their abuse. It is possible the program will be made available in the future to survivors of abuse who have not yet reported their abuse.

While the IRCP does provide some measure of justice and accountability, it is also complex and requires a survivor to waive his/her future rights if a settlement is received. A survivor participating in the IRCP can enroll in the program alone or may wish to retain an attorney to assist them. An attorney can communicate directly with the IRCP and the Diocese to shield the survivor from further trauma.

A deadline of June 1, 2018 exists for those who qualify for the IRCP in the Diocese of Buffalo.

Diocese of Buffalo

The Diocese of Buffalo, New York, was established by Rome on April 23, 1847. It is comprised of eight counties including: Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus and Allegany. The Diocese of Buffalo currently includes 164 parishes with over 300 priests.

The Diocese of Buffalo has a unique hierarchical history that includes several high ranking clerics who supervised numerous sexually abusive priests. Bishop Robert Cunningham (Syracuse) began his career as a priest of Buffalo and became Chancellor and then Vicar General of the diocese. During this time Cunningham was effectively the second in command of the diocese.

The current Bishop of Buffalo is Richard Malone. Bishop Malone was a priest of Boston and served as an Auxiliary Bishop under Cardinal Bernard Law who was made famous in the movie Spotlight, which focuses on the systematic cover up of clerical sexual assault of minors.

The following names are priests connected to the Diocese of Buffalo accused of committing sexual offenses against minors.

Fr. John R. Aurelio



Ordination: 1966

Notes: Fr. John R. Aurelio was suspended in 2003 after admitting to sexually abusing multiple children with Fr. Bernard M. Mach. Fr. Aurelio is believed to have ceased functioning as a priest and moved to Florida after being suspended from ministry.

Assignments:

1967	St. Helen, Hinsdale, NY (Missionary)
1968	Cardinal Mindszenty High School, Dunkirk, NY
1969	St. Leo, Amherst, NY
1970-1975	West Seneca State School, West Seneca, NY
1976-1981	St. Catherine of Siena, West Seneca, NY
1982-1986	West Seneca Development Center, West Seneca, NY
1987-1990	St. John the Evangelist, Buffalo, NY
1991	Unknown
1991-1993	Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora, NY (Spiritual Director)
1994	Absent on leave
1995-1998	Uknown
1999	Retired (P.O. Box 3840, Venice, FL 34293)
2000-2001	Retired (5501 Kent Rd, Venice, FL 34293)
2002	Unknown
2003	Retired (5501 Kent Rd, Venice, FL 34293)
2004-2009	Unknown
8/26/2009	Died

Fr. David W. Bialkowski



Ordination: 1988

Notes: Fr. David W. Bialkowski was placed on leave in 2011 in the wake of an allegation that he acted inappropriately toward a child. After the initial allegation surfaced, two other individuals came forward and alleged that Fr. Bialkowski acted inappropriately toward them as children.

Assignments:

1989-1993	St. Bernard, Buffalo, NY
1994-1995	Saints Peter and Paul Church, Hamburg, NY
1996-2003	St. John Gualbert Church, Cheektowaga, NY
2004-2011	Legion of Mary; St. John Gualbert, Cheektowaga, NY
2012-2013	Absent on leave
2014-2016	Inactive (administrative leave)
2017-2018	Unknown

Fr. Robert J. Biesinger



Ordination: 1956

Notes: Fr. Robert J. Biesinger resigned after a survivor filed a lawsuit alleging that he sexually abused her as a child. A second woman later came forward and alleged that Fr. Biesinger sexually abused her as a young adult.

Assignments:

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1957	Immaculate Conception, East Bethany, NY (Missionary)
1958-1967	Saints Peter and Paul, Williamsville, NY
1968	St. Mary, Lockport, NY
1969-1975	Baker-Victory High School f/k/a Father Baker High School, Lackawanna, NY
1976-1986	Holy Family, Machias, NY
1987	Immaculate Heart of Mary, Buffalo, NY
1988-1994	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cheektowaga, NY
1995-2001	Absent on leave; Sheehan Residence for Priests, Buffalo, NY
2002-2012	Retired (Sheehan Residence for Priests, Buffalo, NY)
7/22/2012	Died

Fr. James H. Cotter



Ordination: 1950

Notes: A lawsuit filed in 2003 alleged that Fr. James H. Cotter sexually abused a child. Fr. Cotter's name appears on the list of credibly accused priests released by the Diocese of San Diego in 2007.

1951	St. Mary's, Little Valley, NY (Missionary)
1952-1955	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cheektowaga, NY
1956-1958	Most Precious Blood, Angola, NY
1959-1965	St. Cecilia, Oakfield, NY (in residence)
1966-1978	Our Lady of Lourdes, Bemus Point, NY
1979-1991	Retired (9252 Fullerton Ave., San Diego, CA 92123)
7/14/1991	Died

Fr. Joseph P. Friel



Ordination: 1957

Notes: A 1994 civil lawsuit alleged that Fr. Joseph P. Friel sexually abused a teenage boy in the late 1960s. Fr. Friel died just over a year after the lawsuit was filed.

Assignments:

1958	St. Mary, Little Valley, NY (Missionary)
1959	St. Joseph, North Tonawanda, NY
1960-1964	St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Cheektowaga, NY
1965-1966	Basilica of Our Lady of Victory, Lackawanna, NY
1967-1970	Fourteen Holy Helpers, Gardenville, NY
1971	St. John the Evangelist, Buffalo, NY
1972	Absent on sick leave
1973-1974	Blessed Sacrament, Kenmore, NY
1975	St. Bernard, Buffalo, NY
1976-1977	St. Bartholomew, Buffalo, NY
1978-1982	St. Patrick, Randolph, NY
1983-1986	St. Vincent, North Evans, NY
1987	Awaiting assignment
1988-1990	St. Charles, Niagara Falls, NY
1991	St. Leo Church, Amherst, NY
1992-1994	Absent on sick leave
1995	(120 Albermarle St, Spt. #10, Buffalo, NY 14207)
8/19/1995	Died

Fr. Fred D. Ingalls



Ordination: 1974

Notes: Fr. Fred D. Ingalls was placed on leave and sent to an out-of-state treatment facility in February 2004 after he was criminally charged with receiving child pornography and storing it on a computer in the rectory. In June 2004, he pleaded guilty and was subsequently sentenced to just over three years in federal prison.

Assignments:

1975-1982	St. Joseph Church, Batavia, NY
1983-1988	St. Joseph, Niagara Falls, NY
1989-1990	St. Margaret, Buffalo, NY
1991-1996	St. Joseph, Batavia, NY
1997-2003	St. John the Baptist Church, Alden, NY
2004	Diocesan Judge; St. Cecilia, Strykersville, NY; St. Joseph, Varysburg, NY
2005-2013	Retired (c/o 795 Main St., 14203)
2014-2018	Unknown

Fr. Gerald C. Jasinski



Ordination: Unknown

Notes: In 1986, Fr. Gerald C. Jasinski was arrested and criminally charged with sodomy, sexual abuse, and unlawful dealings with a child. Fr. Jasinski pleaded not guilty and was released on bail.

Assignments:

1969	St. John the Evangelist, Sinclairville, NY
1970	The Visitation, Buffalo, NY
1971	St. Casimir, Buffalo, NY
1972-1975	Queen of Peace, Buffalo, NY
1976-1977	St. Stanislaus, Buffalo, NY
1978-1982	St. James, Depew, NY
1983-1986	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Lancaster, NY
1987	Absent on leave
1988-2018	Unknown

Fr. Timothy J. Kelley



Ordination: 1978

Notes: In a 2003 lawsuit filed in Florida, Fr. Kelley was accused of sexually abusing a child. After a second person came forward and alleged that Fr. Kelley sexually abused him as a child, Fr. Kelley resigned.

1979-1983	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Dunkirk, NY
1984-1985	On duty outside the Diocese (4522 S. Manhattan Ave., Tampa, FL 33611)
1986-1987	Absent on leave
1988	On duty outside the Diocese (6907 B Society Drive, Tampa, FL)
1989-1990	Absent on leave
1991-2002	Unknown
2003	St. Timothy Church, Tampa, FL; St. Timothy Catholic Early Childhood Learning Center, Tampa, FL (Diocese of St. Petersburg)
2004-2018	Unknown

Fr. Bernard M. Mach



Ordination: 1964

Notes: Fr. Bernard M. Mach was placed on leave in December 1993 in the wake of an allegation of child sexual abuse. Fr. Mach and Fr. John Aurelio allegedly sexually abused multiple children together. Fr. Mach reportedly lived in Florida without privileges before he died in 2004.

Assignments:

1965	St. Mary's, East Arcade, NY (Missionary)
1966	Holy Cross, Buffalo, NY
1967-1968	St. Vincent, North Evans, NY
1969-1977	St. Gerard, Buffalo, NY (1975: in residence)
1978-1979	St. John Vianney, Orchard Park, NY
1980	St. Vincent de Paul, Buffalo, NY
1981	Sacred Heart, Niagara Falls, NY
1982-1989	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Buffalo, NY
1990	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Buffalo, NY; St. Catherine of Siena Church, West Seneca, NY
1991-1993	St. Mary, Lockport, NY
1994	Absent on leave
1995-1998	Unknown
1999	Retired (P.O. Box 3840, Venice, FL 34293)
2000-2003	Retired (5501 Kent Rd., Venice, FL 34293)
2/17/2004	Died

Fr. Loville N. Martlock



Ordination: 1963

Notes: Fr. Loville N. Martlock was placed on medical leave and sent to an out-of-state treatment facility in 1994 in the wake of an allegation of child sexual abuse.

1964	St. John the Evangelist, Sinclairville, NY (Missionary)
1965-1966	Infant Jesus of Prague, Cheektowaga, NY
1967	Holy Family, Buffalo, NY
1968-1972	St. Christopher, Tonawanda, NY
1973-1977	Fourteen Holy Helpers, Gardenville, NY (in residence)
1978-1979	Cardinal Mindszenty High School, Dunkirk, NY (1979: Spiritual Director)
1980-1981	St. John de La Salle, Niagara Falls, NY
1982-1983	St. Elizabeth, Cherry Creek, NY
1984-1986	St. Mary's Diocesan High School, Lancaster, NY
1987-1988	Sacred Heart, Bowmansville, NY (in residence)
1989-1990	On duty outside the Diocese (CAIX Postal 52531 08001 Sao Miguel Paulista Sao Paulo, Brazil South America)
1991	Maryknoll Foreign Missions
1992	St. Benedict the Moor, Buffalo, NY
1993	Notre Dame High School of Batavia, Batavia, NY; Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Bennington Center, NY
1994	Unknown
1995	Absent on leave
1996-1998	Retired (Our Lady of Good Counsel Rectory, 10675 Allegany Rd, Darien Center, 14040)
1999-2013	Retired (P.O. Box 10, Jemez Springs, NM 87025)
2014	Retired (Bishop Head Residence, 10 Rosary Ave., Lackawanna, 14218)
12/26/2014	Died

Fr. Norbert Orsolits



Ordination: 1965

Notes: Fr. Norbert F. Orsolits was sent to Southdown Institute in Canada for treatment following an allegation of child sexual abuse. In 2018, Fr. Orsolits admitted to sexually abusing "probably dozens" of teenage boys in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Fr. Orsolits is believed to have taught at Archbishop Walsh High School in Olean, New York, from approximately 1984 to 1988.

Assignments:

1966	St. Joseph, Bliss, NY (Missionary)
1967	St. John the Baptist, Alden, NY
1968	St. John the Evangelist, Buffalo, NY
1969-1970	St. John Kanty, Buffalo, NY
1971-1973	St. John Gualbertus, Cheektowaga, NY
1974	Our Lady of Czestochowa, Cheektowaga, NY
1975-1977	St. James, Depew, NY
1978	St. James, Buffalo, NY
1979	Awaiting assignment
1980-1981	St. John Vianney, Orchard Park, NY
1982-1983	St. Mary of the Angels, Olean, NY
1984-1988	Sacred Heart, Portville, NY
1989	Absent on leave
1990	St. Lawrence, Buffalo, NY
1991-1992	Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY (chaplain); St. Lawrence Church, Buffalo, NY (in residence)
1993-1995	Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY (chaplain); Deaconess Hospital, Buffalo, NY (chaplain); St. Lawrence Church, Buffalo, NY (in residence)
1996-2000	Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY (chaplain); St. Lawrence Church, Buffalo, NY (in residence)
2001-2003	Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, NY (chaplain); Hospice of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (chaplain); St. Lawrence Church, Buffalo, NY (in residence)
2004-2016	Retired (P.O. Box 91, Springville, 14141)
2017-2018	Unknown

Fr. William F. White



Ordination: 1968

Notes: Fr. William F. White was placed on leave in 1993 and sent to an out-of-state treatment facility in the wake of allegations that he sexually abused two children. After the initial allegations surfaced, several others came forward and accused Fr. White of child sexual abuse. To date, 11 men have alleged that Fr. White sexually abused them as boys and teenagers.

Fr. James A. Spielman

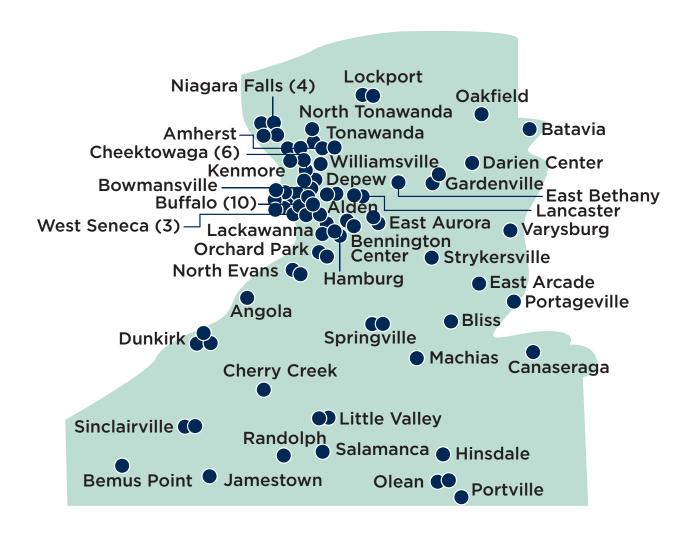


Ordination: 1970

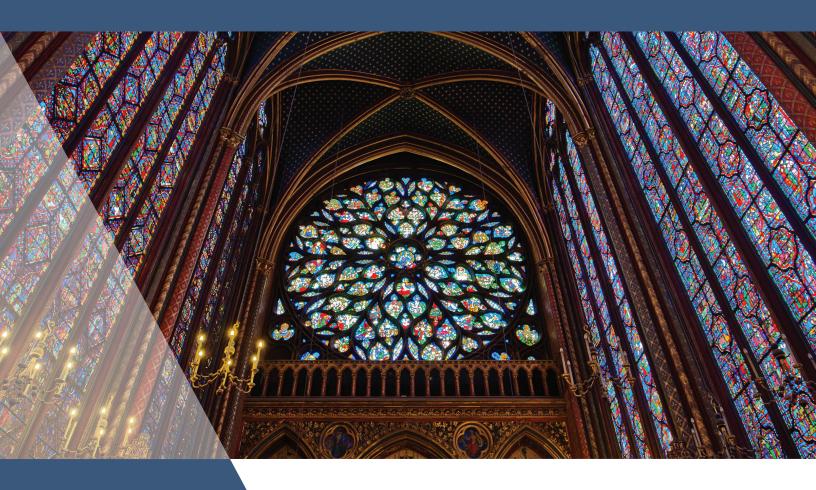
Notes: In 1993, Fr. James A. Spielman was accused of sexually abusing a child. The Diocese of Buffalo reached a settlement with the alleged survivor. Fr. Spielman reportedly resigned from the priesthood and moved to Alaska in 1993 after the allegation surfaced.

1971	Unknown
1972-1977	St. Aloysius, Springville, NY
1978	St. Patrick, Salamanca, NY
1979-1983	Archbishop Walsh High School, Olean, NY
1984-1986	St. Mary, Canaseraga, NY
1987-1989	St. Peter & Paul, Jamestown, NY
1990	Unknown
1991-1993	St. Mary Church Canaseraga, NY; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Portageville, NY
1994-2018	Unknown

Locations of Perpetrators in the Diocese of Buffalo









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